



MARIA Z. MOSSAIDES
DIRECTOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, 11TH FLOOR • BOSTON, MA 02108
MAIN: (617) 979-8374 • WWW.MASS.GOV/CHILADVOCATE

November 22, 2022

Dear Mr. Clerk:

I am pleased to submit to you the following report on behalf of the Childhood Trauma Task Force:

- Identifying Childhood Trauma: Recommendations on Trauma Identification Practices in Child-Serving Organizations

As part of the Task Force's legislative mandates, we were tasked with reviewing *the current means of (i) identifying school-aged children who have experienced trauma, particularly undiagnosed trauma.*¹ This report aims to address that mandate.

This report is the result of two years of research and Task Force discussions about trauma identification and referral practices in child-serving organizations across sectors. It follows the CTTF's 2021 *Interim Report on Trauma Screening and Referral Practices*, which highlighted many successful ways organizations use trauma screening tools to identify children who might have experienced a traumatic event, but also demonstrated that screening was not always the most suitable trauma identification method. This report lays out recommendations for child-serving organizations to help increase their capacity to identify children impacted by trauma, as well as recommendations for how the Commonwealth can support organizations in these efforts.

The report reflects the Task Force's belief that, while trauma identification is a core component of trauma-informed and responsive care, there is no one, perfect way to approach trauma identification across all sectors and organizations. Child-serving organizations should carefully consider which trauma identification method is best adapted to their function, their organizational capacity, and, importantly, the needs and characteristics of the children they serve. The first part of this report provides recommendations for trauma identification across sectors, and the second part of this report lays out recommendations specific to K-12, early childhood settings, pediatric primary care, juvenile justice, child welfare, and first responder settings.

The report is attached to this email and is available for download at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/childhood-trauma-task-force-cttf-2022-report-identifying-childhood-trauma-recommendations-on-trauma-identification-practices-in-child-serving-organizations/download>.

Our office is happy to further discuss this report with you and/or your staff. Please contact Melissa Threadgill, our Director of Strategic Innovation, with any questions. She can be reached at Melissa.Threadgill@mass.gov.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Z. Mossaides", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Maria Z. Mossaides
Director, Office of the Child Advocate

¹ M.G.L. Chapter 18C, Section 14.